

VERMONT TOBACCO EVALUATION AND REVIEW BOARD

Special VDH budget

BOARD MEETING

Monday June 15, 2015 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Vermont Arts Council, 136 State Street, Montpelier

Minutes

Members present: Amy Brewer, Rhonda Williams, Greg MacDonald, Bob Uerz, Senator Anthony Pollina, Representative Bill Frank

Members by phone: Alexandra Potter, Scott Connolly, Bill Goggins, Scott Connolly, Helen Wagner

Guests: Jill Sudhoff-Guerin (ACS), Eoana Sturges (VDH), Al Johnson (VDH)

Public Comment: None

Announcements: None

Proposed VDH budget changes discussion

Rhonda shared updates to the proposed VDH TCP budget for FY16. Highlights include:

Evaluation: Down & Dirty campaign started April 2013. VDH wants to be able to evaluate this campaign discreetly in terms of whether it is working to drive down tobacco use among rural youth. For the amount VDH is spending, they want to better determine if their reach and their outcomes are adequate. Facebook has a lot of analytics already, but the proposed budget allocating \$13,137 toward an evaluation would enhance the data already collected on Down & Dirty. Scott asked whether RTI is conducting evaluation of the effectiveness of RSCG work. Rhonda is not aware of RTI conducting evaluation of Down & Dirty specifically.

Prevention: Proposal includes reducing the number of community coalitions, funding 16 coalitions for FY16. Proposal also includes reduction in training to \$40,000. This would allow one training for coalitions and one training for youth engagement (there are also other trainings available through CounterTools).

Amy asked why there is a \$68,000 deduction from VDH's MSA dollar appropriation as shown on their FY16 budget. Al Johnson explained the historical appropriations to VDH, particularly with regard to a \$68,000 grant to the Burlington School District. Jill reminded the Board about the sustainability agreement and the lack of transparency around how the funds were appropriated. The Board discussed in detail the history and current funding of the \$68,000 grant. Amy is concerned that the VDH tobacco control program is not utilizing their full MSA allocation for tobacco control. Senator Pollina

suggested VTERB might want to make a statement to get that money re-appropriated to the Tobacco Control Program.

VOTE:

Bill moved to approve the VDH budget for FY16 of \$2,341,514. Greg seconded.

Voted in favor: Bill, Rhonda, Bob, Greg, Helen, Bill

Opposed: Amy, Alexi, Scott,

Abstaining: Senator Pollina

VDH budget is approved.

Additional comments: Senator Pollina understands the complexity of funding BSD school-based health center versus funding community coalitions for tobacco prevention, and that this is a topic that warrants further discussion. The Board would like to discuss this at a future meeting.

Other items:

There will be no July meeting.

The Board recognized and applauded the work done this year by Kate and Amy, other Board members, and partners.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35pm.